

# ASRS WEEKLY REPORT

## ARIZONA STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Paul Matson, Director  
3300 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85012  
[www.azasrs.gov](http://www.azasrs.gov)

### ASRS Board of Trustees

Dr. Keith Meredith, Chairperson  
Mr. Karl Polen Jr., Vice Chair  
Mr. David Byers  
Mr. Jaime Gutierrez  
Mr. Christopher Harris  
Ms. Anne Mariucci  
Mr. Michael Townsend  
Mr. Lawrence Trachtenberg  
Mr. Steven Zeman

---

*For the week ending Friday, February 10, 2006*

This electronic report provides a briefing of news and notices important to our employer partners and our members. Please direct comments to [WeeklyReport@azasrs.gov](mailto:WeeklyReport@azasrs.gov).

## ASRS News

### Retirement-related Legislation under consideration this session

There are several bills before the legislature that may impact ASRS members. You can view a summary of these bills and track their progress by referring to the ASRS Bill Tracker, which is updated weekly and posted on our website.

Two bills members and employers may find of particular interest are summarized below.

#### **Senate Bill 1169 - Long Term Disability Program Changes**

This bill would tighten the pre-existing condition regulations in our LTD program by lengthening the "look back" time frame for pre-existing conditions from three months to six months. In addition, other income offsets would increase to 100%. These changes, which would help offset future increase in LTD contribution rates, would be effective for any active member who becomes disabled on or after July 1, 2006. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Dean Martin, has passed through the Senate and was transmitted to the House on Feb. 9.

#### **Senate Bill 1167 – Optional Forms of Retirement**

Members who select a period-certain or joint and survivor annuity at the time of retirement are permitted to rescind their initial pension choice and "pop-up" to a straight life annuity, and then "pop-down" back to their original annuity choice as many times as they choose with no restrictions. The ASRS supports this legislation which limits the ability to make a change one time. This bill, sponsored by Sen. Dean Martin, was passed by the Senate Finance Committee and is in Appropriations. If it becomes law, the ASRS has estimated it could have up to a 0.36% savings to each side (employee and employer) of the contribution rates.

### Educational meetings offered to inform, assist members

The Member Services Division of the ASRS conducts educational meetings available to all members. Whether you're newly hired and want to learn about the benefits available to you, or you're ready to retire and want assistance filling out your paperwork and making annuity selections, the ASRS has a meeting for you.

**Group Meetings** are designed for members within one year of retiring. You'll learn about potential monthly benefits and options, completing retirement paperwork, health insurance, and return-to-work options.

**Seminars** are open to all members and are especially helpful to new members. You'll learn about the ASRS, benefits as an active, inactive and retired member, member responsibilities, retirement benefit calculations, wills and trusts and Social Security benefits.

**Service Purchase Meetings** are open to all members. Here you'll learn about the Service Purchase Program, the process for purchasing service, types of service available for purchase, cost calculations and payment options.

Visit our website and click on the Calendar section to see a full listing, including our Spring state-wide travel schedule. Reservations are required and can be made by calling the Member Service Advisory Center at (602) 240-2000 in Phoenix, (520) 239-3100 in Tucson, or (800) 621-3778 outside Phoenix and Tucson.

## **ASRS Employer News**

### **ER 101 Workshops planned for 2006**

The Employer Relations staff is offering its popular ER 101 Workshops, designed specifically for new employer staff who have not worked with the retirement system and want to learn the basics.

ER 101 focuses on the very basics of the ASRS. The workshops have proven especially helpful for staff in new positions of responsibility in accounting, benefits, human resource or payroll areas.

Subject matter includes: determining membership; Long Term Disability; reporting contributions; the Return to Work Program; Health Insurance Premium Benefit Program; a review of the new ASRS Employer Manual, and completing ASRS forms.

ER 101 Workshops are scheduled **February 21, March 15 and April 18**. All will be from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the ASRS Phoenix office, 3300 N. Central Ave., 10<sup>th</sup> floor Board Room. Space is limited, so make your reservations now! For information and reservations, contact:

Michelle Fink, Administrative Project Coordinator  
Metro Phoenix Phone: 602-308-5107  
Metro Tucson 520-239-3100 ext. 5107  
1-800-621-3778 Ext. 5107  
E-mail: michellef@azasrs.gov

## **Board & Committee Meetings**

### **ASRS Board of Trustees**

Friday, February 17, 2006, 8:30 a.m., ASRS Phoenix office, 3300 N. Central Ave., 10<sup>th</sup> floor Board Room.

### **Investment Committee**

Wednesday, April 5, 2006, 5:30 p.m., ASRS Phoenix office, 3300 N. Central Ave., 14<sup>th</sup> floor conference room.

### **External Affairs Committee**

Friday, March 3, 2006, 10 a.m., ASRS Phoenix office, 3300 N. Central Ave., 14<sup>th</sup> floor conference room.

### **Operations Committee**

Thursday, March 23, 2006, 10:30 a.m., ASRS Phoenix office, 3300 N. Central Ave., 14<sup>th</sup> floor conference room.

*Note: All Board & Committee meetings are open to the public and your attendance is encouraged. Schedules, agendas and minutes of meetings are posted on our website and are available at our Phoenix and Tucson offices.*